

3. Our mission board. (Speak of the fund for foreign missions and of the open fields and the workers willing to go. Speak of the new churches at Washington, Chicago and Dayton and the prospects in general.)

What thank-offering can we bring to the mission work at this time?

What blessings have come to your own life this year?

Are you thankful for health and strength?

Are you thankful for your family and friends?

Are you thankful for the opportunities for doing good?

Are you thankful for the lessons of affliction?

How may we learn to be mindful of the common blessings we daily enjoy?

Every day is God's giving day. Should not every day be also our thanksgiving day?

The author of these notes wishes to express gratitude for God's blessings this year. Last thanksgiving many of our workers were tossing with fever but all were spared and blessed with lessons of untold value. Let us praise the Lord and let us gladly bring our all to the altar of thanksgiving. O God wilt thou accept and use the gift.

C. F. YODER.

### WHY SOME YOUNG MEN FAIL

W. D. FURRY, B. A.

The scriptures say that, "it is well for man to bear the yoke in his youth." A great truth is found here and a much needed lesson that our age must needs learn and that quickly. The young man today is impatient of the yoke and throws it off at the earliest opportunity. He is in great haste to be a "man." There are many of these today who, like Absalom have had no youth. The transition from boyhood to manhood is abrupt. Like evil they seem never to have had a youthful era.

We live in a great age. The past century has been the greatest century of all time. Its watchword has been analysis, its method scientific. It has given us a knowledge of the material world hitherto undreamed of; but the scientific method has caused us to drift to a one sidedness. Our material gains have been made at a spiritual loss. A truly scientific method would study and emphasize the spiritual in man as well as the facts and forces of the material order.

Our age is nervous and intense. The spirit is *touch and go*. Haste is our national sin and haste is the parent of all that is superficial. Many fail today, because they do not take time to have the yoke of youth and thus become disciplined for life's duties. No age has presented such opportunities for success as the present one; but success depends not upon the opportunity but upon the man. Young men today fail in business because they enter it unprepared. Now as ever days spent in preparation are well spent. Life today is strenuous and the best preparation scarcely suffices. Jesus spent thirty years in preparation; and at the end of his life could say "It is finished." If the young man of today would so wish to say of his life at its close, he too must needs make adequate preparation.

Many young men fail because of habits indulged in when away from their daily work. Social drinking is today destroying many young men. Their sense of pride and honor will not permit them to enter a saloon and they begin their course downward in social life, in the elegant wine-rooms and in the fashionable clubs. No man can reach the zenith of success and indulge in the use of tobacco or drink. Four-fifths of the successful men of today do not use intoxicants at all; and four-fifths of the men that think they can drink moderately, end their lives as drunkards and business failures.

No one thinks the less of a young man because he refuses to drink. Few business men will trust him if he drinks and every one will respect him the more if he does not drink. And the same statement obtains with regard to the use of to-

bacco, especially in the form of cigarettes. A young man recently sought a clerkship in Chicago. He searched diligently and patiently but he searched in vain. He was a user of cigarettes and in consequence no business man was willing to take him into his employment.

A young man should enter society. There is a social side to his nature and he must needs develop it. But he must be careful in choosing his social circles. If it is not always true that a man is known by the company he keeps, it is at least true that a man is determined by the company he keeps. The young man should select as associates, men of good habits and women that are true, pure, modest and cultured. These will prove a blessing to him and a mighty power in making his life successful. We cannot over-estimate the value of good society; neither can we over-estimate the power of evil associates to lead one's life to infamy and ruin. George Washington's advice was "Let thy friends be few and well tried." True friendships are not only desirable but necessary. Lamentable is the person that knows not the solace and inspiration of a real friendship. The success as well as the failure of many men can be traced to the friendships indulged in.

A few reasons why young men fail have been given. And these conditions are forced upon no man. God has made us sufficiently able to stand, tho free to fall. We are architects of our own fate. Ours is not a world of chance. Time and materials for the making of the noblest life are within reach of each one of us. A perfect ideal of life has been set before us. Let us study the life of Jesus Christ and then with his aid and comfort let us strive to emulate in our own lives the virtues that distinguish his life. This is a high ideal, but every pure man and woman knows it is right and best and that it is the only standard of life that God can sanction; and he will decide in the end whether our lives have been lived successfully or not. We may deceive men, but we cannot deceive God. Before him we stand each day. He has placed the instruments of judgment within us. Each day thus becomes a judgment day. Memory furnishes the testimony; reason tries the case; and conscience pronounces the verdict. Our time is short and must be redeemed. Let us seek to live pure, honest, righteous lives, moral tho poor rather than rich and immoral. Let us seek to do only those things that tend toward our completest welfare. Let our associations be ennobling and inspiring. Let us seek in all things the glory of God, for his glory and our highest good are ever the same. The successful life is the life that glorifies God; and the life that glorifies God in thought, word and act, is the really successful life.

## Christian Life

"Jesus Wept"

MRS VIRGINIA HALLER

"He keepeth Israel who hath always kept;  
To living waters He the flock will lead,  
And in green pastures they shall safely feed!  
As ages thru the aisles of Time have swept,  
He hath not wearied guiding you, nor slept!"  
By griefs assailed, God's promises we read,  
And, tho in rugged paths our feet oft bleed,  
We know that for our sorrows, "Jesus Wept."

O, sacred pillow whereon we may rest  
Our aching heads, while tears o'erbrim our eyes,  
And, thru the mist, our Saviour's face may see!  
He soothes our sobs and stills rebellious cries;  
Divine compassion draws us to His breast  
To hear its throbs of human sympathy.

—New York Observer.

### YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

J R MILLER.

It is a good lesson that teaches us to live by the day, one day at a time. Indeed to-

day is the only day we really have anything to do with. We cannot re-live yesterday however much we could improve its record, nor can we touch as yet the duties of tomorrow, however important they may be. Therefore we should devote all our strength to the doing of the tasks of today. We should shake off all of yesterday's chains, lay down all its vexing things, disengage ourselves from all its entanglements, and start today's life free as we had been just born and were only beginning our life. Then as to tomorrow, we should let all its affairs alone until we come to them. They are not ours yet, and it will be soon enough when they must be taken up, to begin to carry their burden.

Emmerson puts the lesson well in a paragraph: "Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays."

If we learn the lesson of living just one day at a time, anxiety for either yesterday or tomorrow, we shall have found one of the great secrets of Christian peace and making life beautiful and complete. That is the way God teaches us to live. That is the lesson both of the Bible and of nature. If we learn the lesson well it will cure us of all anxiety; it will save us from all feverish hate; it will enable us to live sweetly in any experience; it will help us to concentrate all our energies and powers upon the one thing in hand—the work and the duty of one little day.

"One day at a time! That's all it can be:

No faster than that is the hardest fate:  
And days have their limits, however we  
Begin them early and stretch them late.

"One day at a time! A burden too great  
To be borne for two can be borne for one;  
Who knows what will enter tomorrow's gate?  
While yet we are speaking all may be done.

"One day at a time—but a single day,  
Whatever its load, whatever its length;  
And there's a bit of precious Scripture to say  
That according to each shall be our strength."

Yet important as this lesson is, and as is the duty of fencing off the days and keeping them separate, there is a sense in which no day stands alone or can ever stand alone. The days are linked in an endless chain; one day is only one link of the chain. Each day receives an inheritance from the past and then passes down its inheritance to the day which comes after. When we open our eyes on a new morning, we say it as if we had only begun to live, as if our life had just come fresh and new that moment from God. But this is true only in a sense. We are not any morning just beginning to live, except the morning of our birth. Night is not a Lethe with its waters of oblivion, to make us forget all that has gone before. We start every new day with memories of all our past trailing